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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 12 were rejected under §102 as anticipated by Rachwal. Rachwal discloses a battery-powered searchlight that switches between a dim level and a bright level. It discloses alternatives that may also switch between off, dim, bright, and flashing levels. Rachwal employs a switch having a simple open/closed switch that connects to a circuit that flops between a dim state and a bright state with each momentary closure of the switch. The circuit has a single line connecting to a voltage regulator 40 that powers an LED lamp. The reference does not disclose any particular means for how to switch among more than two states.

The rejection of claim 1 is in error because the cited reference does not disclose all of the elements of the claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 2, to clarify that a sequence of states is more than just two. The cited reference discloses a switching system that provides only two operational states (off and bright, or dim and bright). In fact, the element 18a cited as a switch has only two possible states, open and closed. The action does not indicate other elements to provide a "switch", but if the flip/flop 46 were considered part of a switch, it too has only two states ("flip" and "flop").

While the cited reference appears to offer a choice of whether the light is off or dim as the switchable alternative to the bright state, the cited switch and other elements lack the claimed capability of having an off state in addition to two other brightness states. The off-versus-dim selection is not made by the element cited as a switch responsive to momentary pressure to increment between/among states, and a sequence of momentary pressures will not cycle through at least three states.

While the cited reference discloses at column 9, lines 1-8 that the switch assembly 18d of Figure 7 may between four different operating conditions, the illustration shows only a button, and there is no disclosure of how this four-condition is achieved (other than by one or two switches), let alone whether it is achieved by a series of applications of momentary pressure on

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the button. The passage does not disclose any means for achieving the desired result, and thus does not teach applicant's claimed solution to achieve his result.

For the above reasons, claim 1 and its dependents should be allowable.

Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for the above reasons and because of the features set forth therein.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite the function of how the claimed switch responds to a series of single momentary applications and release of pressure to increment sequentially through all of the states. This should be allowable for the additional reason that the open-closed flip-flop switch of the cited reference switches only back and forth through two states.

Claim 4 has been amended to clarify the plurality of conductive connections (see applicant's figures 12 and 13) between the switch and controller, each corresponding to a selected operational state. The cited reference lacks this configuration, and has only a single connection (Q-42 or Q-on/off) between the elements cited as switch and controller.

Claims 5-7 should be allowable for the additional reason that the action cites different embodiments for different features, while not all features are found in any one embodiment, and there is no teaching of how to combine the different embodiments.

Claim 9 should be allowable for the additional reason that the cited reference does not disclose a resistor network connected and operating as claimed. The mere existence of one or two resistors within an electronic circuit does not disclose a "resistor network" as the term is conventionally used in the art.

Claim 12 has been amended for clarity to recite at least three different output contacts of the switch, and should be allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, or because certain claimed elements are not disclosed in the cited reference.

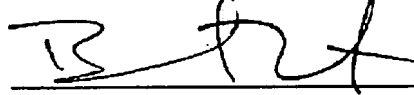
Claims 13-20 depend from claim 12 and should be allowable for the above reasons and because of the features set forth therein. The action does not appear to specifically address claims 14 or 15 to support the rejections. Various of the dependent claims should be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to their counterparts in the dependents of claim 1.

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All pending claims should be allowable for the above reasons. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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